Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PAGE 01 OECD P 06929 210151 Z 72 ACTION EUR-25 INFO OCT-01 EA-11 NEA-10 IO-12 ADP-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 INRE-00 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02 INR-09 NSAE-00 RSC-01 OPIC-12 TRSE-00 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 SAL-01 OMB-01 SS-14 NSC-10 PA-03 PRS-01 USIE-00 RSR-01 /156 W ----- 105896 O 210039 Z MAR 73 ZFF-4 FM USMISSION OECD PARIS TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9112 INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS UNN IMMEDIATE AMEMBASSY ANKARA AMEMBASSY ATHENS AMEMBASSY BERN AMEMBASSY BONN AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS AMEMBASSY CANBERRA AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN AMEMBASSY DUBLIN AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE AMEMBASSY HELSINKI AMEMBASSY LISBON AMEMBASSY LONDON USMISSION USNATO AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG AMEMBASSY MADRID AMEMBASSY OSLO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK AMEMBASSY ROME AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM AMEMBASSY TOKYO AMEMBASSY VIENNA AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

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ECOTO 15

E.9. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIN, OVIP, OECD (CASE, WILLIAM J.)

SUBJECT: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE " NEW STYLE" -- INVESTMENT ISSUES

REFS: (A) CE(73)6 (B) USOECD 6789

- 1. SUMMARY. XCNS AGREED TO CONTINUE DISCUSSION OF INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENT AND OF MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TOWARD PROBLEMS CONNECTED WITH INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.
 DISCUSSION IS TO BE BASED ON NEW SECRETARIAT DOCUMENT (ALTERNATIVE TO PROPOSED AD HOC GROUP STUDY), WHICH WILL BE DIRECTED TOWARD QUESTIONS TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY TREATMENT THIS FIELD. IN THIS CONTEXT, SCNS ALSO UNBLOCKED 1972 PROPOSAL THAT COUNCIL CONSIDER BETTER COORDINATION OF ONGOING OECD ACTIVITIES RE MNC'S.
- 2. XCNS AGRED TO ASK SECRETARIAT, IN CONSULTATION WITH MEMBER GOVERNMENTS, TO PREPARE PAPER ON QUESTIONS TO BE GIVEN PRIORITY TREATMENT REGARDING (A) PROBLEMS CONCERNING INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENT, PARTICULARLY THOSE CONNECTED WITH INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND (B) PROBLEMS SPECIFIC TO MULTINATIONAL ENTERPRISES, AS INDICATED IN PARAS 73, 75, 76, AND 77 OF REF (A). PAPER WOULD BE BASIS FOR DISCUSSION AT FUTURE SCNS MEETING. SCNS REJECTED PROPOSAL (PARA 80, REF A) TO ESTABLISH AD HOC GROUP AT THIS TIME AND DID NOT ADDRESS SELF TO QUESTION OF THE REVIEW WHICH AD HOC GROUP WAS TO CONDUCT OF RELEVANT OECD PROCEDURES AND PROGRAMS.
- 3. PROCEDURAL DECISION CAME AT CONCLUSION OF EXTENDED DEBATE IN WHICH MOST COUNTRIES AGREED ON IMPORTANCE OF ISSUES AND ON NEED FOR MORE ANALYSIS. (INITIAL U. S. INTERVENTION IS IN REF B.) THERE WAS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WIDE DIVERGENCE ON SCOPE, FOCUS AND SPEED EXAMINATION SHOULD TAKE AT THIS STAGE. SOME COUNTRIES INTERESTED IN DIRECT INVESTMENT, WHILE OTHERS STRESSED SHORT-TERM CAPITAL FLOW PROBLEM AND STILL OTHERS EMPHASIZED MACRO-ECONOMIC ASPECTS. MANY WERE HESITANT TO COMMIT THEMSELVES TO ANY FIRM WORKING ABJECTIVE AND ASKED FOR MORE DATA FROM SECRETARIAT.

- 4. OTHER DELS THOUGHT SOME FOCUS WAS NECESSARY, AND SEC GEN PLEADED INABILITY OF SECRETARIAT TO PRODUCE WIDE-RANGING PAPER AND COMPREHENSIVE DATA WITHIN REASONABLE TIME. U. S. REP (UNDER SECRETARY CASEY) SUGGESTED FOCUS ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT ASPECTS OF DIRECT INVESTMENTS. SEVERAL DELS (FRANCE, IRELAND, NORWAY) POINTED TO SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ASPECTS OF IMPORTANCE.
- 5. U. S. AND SEVERAL OTHERS FAVORED SETTING ASIDE QUESTION OF MOBILE CAPITAL FLOWS (PART II OF REF A), WHICH IS ADDRESSED IN ANY CASE IN EPC WP3 AND C-20. SEVERAL DELS REFERRED TO BALANCE OF PAYMENTS AS AN ASPECT OF PRINCIPAL IMPORTANCE, AND SWITZERLAND POINTED TO DANGER SUCH FLOWS WILL DISCREDIT LIBERAL APPROACH TO INVESTMENT. SUBJECT IS NOT SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED IN AGREED CHAIRMAN'S SUMMARY. FORMULATION USED, HOWEVER, LAYS STRESS ON RELATIONSHIP OF INVESTMENT TO INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT.
- 6. CLEAR DIFFERENCES AROSE ON QUESTION OF HANDLING MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS. U. S. AGREED INTENSIFIED EXAMINATION OF ROLE OF MNC'S WAS DESIRABLE, BUT E
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^{***} Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

^{***} Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: n/a Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 21 MAR 1973 Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960 Decaption Note: Disposition Action: RELEASED

Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973OFCDP06929

Document Number: 1973OECDP06929 Document Source: CORE Document Unique ID: 00 Drafter: n/a

Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: n/a Errors: CORE6 Film Number: n/a From: OECD PARIS Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path: ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730335/aaaaieao.tel Line Count: 146 Locator: TEXT ON-LINE

Office: ACTION EUR

Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Original Handling Restrictions: n/a Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 3

Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a Reference: USOECD 6789

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Authority: morefirh

Review Comment: n/a Review Content Flags: ANOMALY Review Date: 15 AUG 2001

Review Event:

Review Exemptions: n/a Review History: RELEASED <15-Aug-2001 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <01-Oct-2001 by morefirh>

Review Markings:

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier: Review Referrals: n/a Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

Secure: OPEN

Status: <DBA CORRECTED> srp 971219; srp 971219 Subject: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE " NEW STYLE" -- INVESTMENT ISSUES

TAGS: EFIN, OVIP, OECD, (CASE, WILLIAM J.)

To: EUR

SECSTATE WASHDC INFO ANKARA

ATHENS BERN MULTIPLE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005